



Council on Child  
Safety and  
Family Empowerment

**GOVERNOR DUCEY'S OFFICE OF YOUTH, FAITH AND FAMILY**  
**COUNCIL ON CHILD SAFETY AND FAMILY EMPOWERMENT**

**PREVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE**

**April 10, 2018**  
**2:00 PM**

**1700 West Washington Street Suite 230**  
**Conference Room B**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85007**

*A general meeting of the Prevention Subcommittee was convened on April 10, 2018, at the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family, Suite 230, Conference Room B, Phoenix, Arizona, 85007.  
Notice having been duly given.*

Members Present (6)	
Vicki Mayo, Chair	
Ginger Ward, Co-Chair	
Darlene Newsom	
Mark Upton	
Michael Wisehart	
James Molina	
Members Absent (3)	Staff/Guests Present (3)
Jeff Taylor	Marie Khalaf
Jay Cory	Terrilyn Miller
Pamela Morrison	Malcolm Hightower

**MEETING MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Vicki Mayo, Chair, called the Prevention Subcommittee meeting to order at 2:07 PM with six members and three staff present and four members absent.

**2. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

Ms. Mayo welcomed members and thanked for their attendance. Each member of the Subcommittee and staff introduced themselves.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Ms. Ginger Ward, Co-Chair, requested a motion to approve the minutes from the March 13, 2018 Subcommittee meeting. Mr. James Molina moved to approve the March 13, 2018 minutes as drafted. Mr. Michael Wisehart seconded. The minutes were passed with no dissenting votes.

**4. DISCUSSION: Child Care Subsidy Early Indicator**

Ms. Mayo provided a recap the March 13, 2018 Subcommittee meeting on the child care subsidy. Ms. Mayo stated that the main goal of the subcommittee is to identify the population to serve and begin thinking about what can be accomplished.

Mr. Wisehart defined the different populations that can receive subsidy for child care:

- Individuals currently receiving cash assistance
- Individuals transitioning off of cash assistance
- Working individuals with low income.

Mr. Wisehart added that the maximum amount of time someone can be on subsidy is 24 months, which can be an issue for individuals who rely on the assistance for their child care.

Ms. Mayo asked if the subcommittee wanted to improve the subsidy services that people are already getting or try and get more people on subsidy? Mr. Wisehart answered that Arizona is currently maxing out the funding for subsidy, but the federal government just allocated more funding to child care. The hope is that this funding will be used to serve more children.

Ms. Mayo asked the subcommittee members if the focus should be on getting individuals to better facilities or to try and find new funding options? A discussion began about overall quality of care in facilities the importance of good quality care for children.

Ms. Ward stated that First Things First and Southwest Human Development were beginning to look at relocating children to higher rated centers and finding new centers to work with in specific areas. The hope is there will be an increase in trauma-informed training to individuals at the Arizona Department of Child Safety (DCS) and centers that are already quality rated.

Mrs. Darlene Newsom asked about reinstating prevention funding that had been eliminated, it could help with giving individuals support after they leave support organizations like UMOM.

Ms. Mayo mentioned flat money for prevention (not sure if I got that correct or what it is called) and asked who is receiving the money from \_\_\_\_\_.

Ms. Newsom stated that DCS is redoing pieces of RFP (not sure what this is) and mentioned that if you delayed on getting paperwork turned in organizations could get in trouble. Mr. Molina mentioned that VRF is going statewide. NOTE: I think the last two bullet points were about the same topic, but I missed something at the beginning and did not know what to write for the rest of the conversation.

Ms. Mayo asked about supports available for individuals going off cash assistance and if there are Case Managers available. Mr. Wisehart answered that there are not currently Case Managers available for individuals who have 'timed-out' of services. Ms. Newsom mentioned that Section 8 housing needs to be looked at, and that many people have issues getting income even if they are given cash assistance services.

Members discussed the population who time-out of services and ways that they could be assisted. The consensus was that there needs to be something, but it is difficult to figure out what kind of assistance is needed since no one tracks stages of assistance and keeps track of who times out.

Ms. Mayo asked the members what kinds of programs they would like to see implemented if money was not object. Programs that help individuals become self-sufficient were mentioned, such as vocational schools. Ms. Newsom mentioned that there are programs like that available, but the problem is getting past the underlying issues people have that keep them from attending. Members discussed Trauma Informed Care and getting past the personal barriers to make sure individuals are continuing to keep their jobs.

Ms. Newsom stated that retention specialists could help with keeping individuals employed and a discussion followed about how case managers and retention specialists could be a helpful resource to offer individuals transitioning off of cash assistance. However the question about feasibility remained, it was mentioned that it could be difficult to get the number needed to really assist those in need.

Mrs. Miller asked about if all housing complexes had an area for section 8 housing. Ms. Newsom answered that there are places that get tax credit for offering section 8 housing. Members discussed housing and the challenges that come along with section 8 housing because it becomes harder for individuals to integrate into society if section 8 housing is not spread throughout all communities.

Ms. Ward stated that DCS children need a higher level of care which can be difficult to find qualified people to work in centers to care for them. This leads some centers to not take as many DCS children. Mr. Wisheart asked about where to get care in grassroots communities like Maryvale. Ms. Mayo brought up the Angel Initiative and how Safe Families work in that community. Members discussed how social service programs need to be very community based.

Ms. Mayo reiterated how the main focus needs to be to figure out what population subcommittee wants to serve. The consensus was that it should be those individuals who are transitioning off of cash assistance. The subcommittee needs to create a system that will assist them not regress after they have made progress.

## **5. DISCUSSION: Angel Initiative Update**

Mr. Malcolm Hightower, Deputy Director of Community Engagement, informed the subcommittee members that VISTA Marie Khalaf would now be the Arizona Angel Initiative (AAI) Coordinator and point of contact for all things AAI. Mr. Hightower mentioned the feasibility report about AAI that is due at the end of the year and spoke about plans for writing said report. An update about each of the four locations was given to the subcommittee members and Ms. Khalaf stated that she will be giving updates at future subcommittee meetings.

Ms. Khalaf gave the following updates: waiting on Pinal County Attorney to speak with law enforcement and contact GOYFF after initial meeting was conducted; Mesa PD is interested in the initiative and are currently having internal talks about what implementation could look like in their community; Phoenix PD has just been assigned an AmeriCorps VISTA member to help with the Angel Navigator role and are planning on expanding citywide; and Scottsdale PD currently has three volunteers set to start after their press release happening in the middle of April.

Mr. Hightower stated that a list of questions were being created to ask new agencies who want to partner for AAI. Ms. Mayo asked if the members could be sent these to give any suggestions. Ms. Khalaf stated that she would send them out and that we could discuss

them further at the next meeting. Ms. Mayo stated that AAI will be a recurring agenda item for subcommittee meetings.

#### **6. DISCUSSION: Next Steps**

Ms. Ward stated that there needs to be a focus on improving environment of centers and finding more centers in low income areas to become quality rated. Subcommittee members agreed. Ms. Ward added that there is a push to try and get mental health assistance funded by AHCCCS.

Mr. Wisheart stated that there needs to be an understanding that child care is not simply babysitting. The first 5 years before kindergarten is a very important part of child development, which is why quality and availability of care needs to be improved. Mr. Wisheart added that **DES should focus on quantity of care and First Things First should be focused on quantity of care. (Not sure if this is something that you wanted in notes or just mentioned to members during meeting)**

#### **7. FUTURE MEETING DATES**

- a. May 8, 2018 at 2:00 PM, UMOM
- b. August 14, 2018 at 2:00 PM, Salvation Army
- c. September 11, 2018 at 2:00 PM, Mission Possible Café
- d. October 9, 2018 at 2:00 PM
- e. November 13, 2018 at 2:00 PM

#### **8. CALL TO THE PUBLIC**

Ms. Mayo, Chair, conducted a call to the public and there were no members of the public in attendance.

#### **9. ADJOURN**

Ms. Mayo, Chair, called for adjournment at 3:34 PM.

Dated April 10, 2018  
Council on Child Safety and Family Empowerment  
Prevention Subcommittee  
Respectfully Submitted By:  
Terrilyn Miller  
Child Safety and Family Empowerment, Director, GOYFF